

# CURRICULUM REFORM BULLETIN

Molecules To  
Military Medicine



13 May 11

*This bulletin represents the 4th in a series of bi-weekly updates on topics related to Curriculum Reform. Comments, suggestions, or questions are more than welcome and can be forwarded to Col Pock at:*

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## Q: What is a "Capstone Project"?

A: A Capstone Project provides students with an opportunity to design, complete, and present an in-depth research project of his/her choosing, under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

## Q: What type of Capstone Projects will be available?

A: For some students, the Capstone Project will provide an opportunity to engage in bench research; for others, it may be a means of researching answers to a clinical question, setting up a clinical trial, or helping to address a specific operational issue. The possibilities are endless, and could even involve planning for and/or participating in a humanitarian mission.

## Q: When do Capstone Projects begin and how long will they last?

A: Students will be encouraged to start thinking about a possible Capstone Project during their MS-I year. While most students will spend 3 months of their MS-IV year working on a Capstone Project, some students may be able to start working on their projects earlier.

## Q: What about maintaining student's clinical skills during the Capstone period?

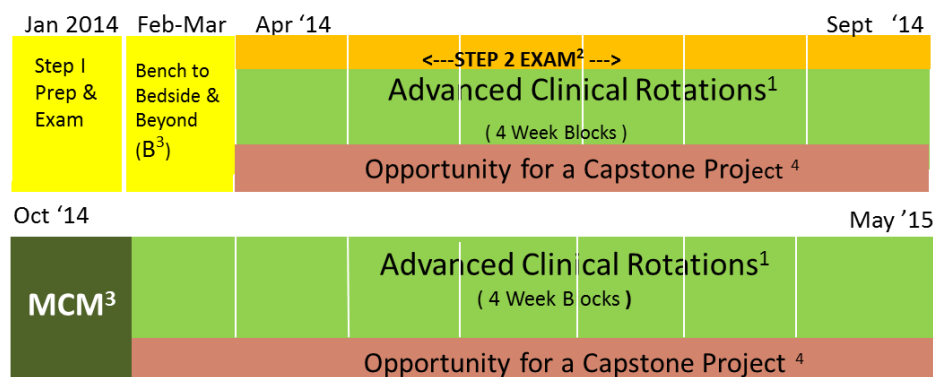
A: Regardless of the project chosen, all students will continue to participate in some form of direct clinical care while working on their Capstone Projects.

## Q: Why is a Capstone Project important?

A: Completion of a Capstone Project is a way of fulfilling the growing expectation that medical students graduate with a solid understanding of how new knowledge is generated and that they are able to demonstrate competence in the areas of inquiry and analysis.

## Overview of Post-Clerkship Period

Step Exams / Bench-to-Bedside & Beyond (B3) / Advanced Clinical Rotations  
Military Contingency Medicine / Capstone Opportunity



### Specific Notes:

1. Advanced Clinical Rotations—includes a Neuroscience Rotation (Neurology, Neurosurgery or Pediatric Neurology) for students not previously completing neurology. Also includes 2 Sub-Internships (one medical, one surgical) for all students and an Emergency Medicine rotation.
2. Step II CK to be completed between April & Sept of MS-IV year; Step II CS NLT Nov of MS-IV yr.
3. Military Contingency Medicine –Includes Operation Bushmaster
4. Capstone Projects are expected to require a minimum of 3 months to complete, however different projects/tracks may have unique requirements. Depending on student interests and/or the type of Capstone Project, work may start earlier (i.e. as early as the MS-I/II year) and proceed in a contiguous or non-contiguous (i.e. asynchronous) time frame. Regardless of the Capstone Project, all students will average at least 8 hrs of patient care activities/wk.

These bulletins may be read on line at <http://www.usuhs.mil/curriculumreform/whatsnew.html>

Stop by and check out The Education & Technology Innovation (ETI) Support Office Showcase event on May 26 & 27 and on June 2, from 1130-1330 outside the cafeteria, in building B. Members of the ETI team will be available to discuss innovative instructional techniques and technologies that support curriculum reform.

